

## ***RESTORATIVE JUSTICE***

Restorative Justice is a victim-focused approach to criminal justice. The Department's restorative justice initiatives encourages offenders to reflect on the harm caused by their criminal activity and make restoration to victims, the community and their families. The following are two core Restorative Justice practices adopted by the Department:

Reparative Activities meet the needs of victims, victim service providers and the community and give offenders an opportunity to earn a pro-social place in society. Missouri was one of the first states to offer reparative activities at all adult institutions. Each offender is given an opportunity to volunteer on a reparative activity at their incarcerated location while they are NOT at work, school or treatment. As of July 2003, all 21 institutions had implemented a reparative activity that used recycled raw materials, donations by the community or offender purchased supplies. During the months of July 2001 through June 2002 over 72,000 hours of reparative activity had been completed with 5,100 offenders volunteering. Since July 1, 2002 until July 30, 2003 188,935 volunteer hours have been recorded with over 10,000 offenders volunteering on reparative products. With the dedication of offenders and staff hundreds of different state and local agencies, victim groups and individuals have benefited from reparative products.

Impact of Crime on Victim Classes provide victims a safe and structured opportunity to talk about the impact of crime on their lives and assist the department in developing in offenders an increased sensitivity towards victims to prevent further victimization. The classes encompass a range of crimes committed in Missouri and offenders are compelled to explore the impact of these crimes on relationships in the community and within the families of victims. Offenders are expected to develop respect for the rights of others and become accountable for their actions. More than 4,000 offenders volunteered for the Impact of Crime on Victim Classes in the last 12 months with numerous victims of a variety of crimes from Domestic Violence, Drunk Driving and Homicide speaking on the ever lasting effects on a person choice to commit a crime.

Probation and Parole offices sponsor a variety of restorative justice programs for offenders under their supervision living in the community. Reparative Boards comprised of citizens from the community specially trained by the Department to meet with offenders concerning their behavior under supervision. They provide the court with an assessment of an offender's needs and how the offender can best repair the harm they caused the victim and the community. Impact of Crime on Victim Classes are available at most Probation and Parole offices to demonstrate to offenders how crime directly impacts victims, communities and their own families.